



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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March 10, 2004

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Craig McLaughlin, Senior Health Policy Manager

**RE: FEATHERSTONE REID AWARD NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Background and Summary:**

On October 10, 2001, the State Board of Health agreed to assist the Secretary of Health by serving as a selection committee for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award for Excellence in Health Care. Specifics about the statutory criteria for the award and the Board's process are contained in the attached briefing memo that was distributed to the Board at that time.

The current cycle began when Chair Linda Lake issued a call for nominations in October 2003. The nomination review committee convened February 13 to review nominations received by December 31. Present were Board Chair Linda Lake; Board staff member Craig McLaughlin; Scott Bond, Providence St. Peter Hospital; Bob Blacksmith, Health Care Authority; and Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health (Dr. Dick Seaman was unable to participate).

After discussing the strong qualifications of all five nominees, the committee reached consensus to forward the nominations of both Ellen Jeffcoat, R.D.H., B.S. and Inland Northwest Health Services to the Board, and to recommend that both be forwarded to Secretary Selecky for further consideration. The committee noted that both are recognized and looked to for leadership.

The group felt that individuals and organizations are not easily compared, and that it might be unfair to ask individuals to compete against organizations. The committee therefore recommends that it become standard practice to treat individuals and organizations as two distinct categories and to forward recommendations in each category if there are qualified candidates. The authorizing statute considered only a single award but does not appear to preclude a dual award.

**Possible Board Action:**

I recommend the Board adopt the following motion.

***The Board accepts the recommendation of the nomination review committee and will transmit the applications of both Ellen Jeffcoat and Inland Northwest Health Services to the secretary of health for further consideration.***

## **Discussion**

On October 10, 2001, the State Board of Health adopted the following motion:

*The State Board of Health shall assist the secretary of health in the selection of nominees for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award for Excellence in Health Care. The Chair, with the assistance of Board staff, will issue a call for nominations on or about October 1 of each year. Nominations will be due by December 31. During January, a committee will review the nominations and recommend a finalist or list of finalists to the full Board. The committee shall comprise (1) one member of the Board appointed by the Chair; (2) the Executive Director of the Board or a designee; (3) one staff person from the Department of Health selected by the Secretary; (4) one staff person from the Health Care Authority selected by the Administrator; (5) one health care provider recruited by Board staff; and (6) one administrator from a health care facility recruited by Board staff. The Board will consider the committee's recommendations during the first meeting held after February 1 and communicate its findings to the secretary immediately thereafter.*

Specifics about the statutory criteria for the award and the Board's process are contained in the briefing memo that was distributed to the Board at that time (attached).

This year the Board received five nominations. All had been carefully prepared and documented and many of the potential recipients received multiple nominations. The nomination review committee met February 13 and began the discussion by remarking on the overall quality of the candidates. The group then narrowed the field to two leading candidates. One was an individual provider and one was a health care facility. The committee decided to recommend both nominations, and to ask that they be treated as separate categories—individual and organizational.

The provider being recommended is Ellen Jeffcoat, R.D.H, B.S., manager of the Oral Health Program of Public Health—Seattle & King County. She is also a founding member of the Washington State Oral Health Coalition and affiliate faculty at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. The nomination and letters of support highlighted her management of the five dental clinics, her commitment to improving access, particularly for low-income children, and her leadership in implementing such interventions as applying sealants and the use of fluoride.

The facility being recommended is Inland Northwest Health Services, a collaboration that provides telemedicine links between 46 hospitals and other facilities in the Inland Northwest. Its TeleHealth program, which includes TeleTrauma, TelePharmacy, and TeleEducation, controls costs, improves access, and increases the quality of care received in rural communities.

The nomination review committee noted that both applications were accompanied by strong data and documentation. Committee members also commented that both nominees are regularly looked to as leaders in their fields. Application materials for both are attached.

Attachments